

AMENDMENT TO THE DRAWINGS

Enclosed is a replacement sheet of drawings, labeled REPLACEMENT 14/16. The sheet labeled REPLACEMENT 14/16 includes FIGURE 15 and replaces the original sheet which included FIGURE 15.

Enclosure: One replacement drawing sheet labeled REPLACEMENT 14/16.

REMARKS

Claims 17, 30, and 37 are herein cancelled, while preserving their right of reentry into this or any other applicable application. Claims 38-40 are added into this application. Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 11, 18-21, 24 and 31-36 are amended to merely define the invention with more clarity. Additionally, Applicants assert that all amendments are supported by the application-as-filed and that no new matter has been added. Claims 1-16, 18-29, 31-36, and 38-40 are now in the application. Reconsideration of the application is requested in light of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's recombination of the claims after the restriction requirement. Applicants sincerely thank the Examiner for examining all of the claims as filed.

Also, Applicants sincerely thank the Examiner for the courteous phone conversation on 08/22/2006 and for the corresponding Interview Summary (dated 08/24/2006). Applicants agree that FIGURES 12A and 12B clearly show embodiments of the invention, but wish to make of record that the FIGURES merely show exemplary embodiments. In other words, FIGURES 12A and 12B in no way limit the scope of the Claims.

Objections to the Drawings

The Examiner objected to the drawings because of (i) citations to the reference character "270" in the specification, and (ii) the structure referred to by reference character "22" in FIGURE 15.

Applicants herein amend the last paragraph on Page 26 of the specification as filed, which spans between Line 28 of Page 26 and Line 3 of Page 27 which obviates the first objection. Namely, Applicants change the label "threaded nut 270" to "threaded nut 171" which resolves the discrepancy.

Also, Applicants amend FIGURE 15 by submitting the sheet labeled REPLACEMENT 14/16 wherein the reference character "171" replaces the former reference character "22", which obviates the second objection.

Accordingly, all issues with the drawing are resolved and Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objections thereto.

Objections to the Specification

The Examiner objects to Applicants' specification, including the abstract, based on various typographical and/or other clerical anomalies contained therein. In adopting all of the Examiner's suggestions for correction, Applicants herein amend the respective portions of the specification, including the abstract, as filed. Accordingly, Applicants assert that the specification is in proper form and respectfully request withdrawal of the objections thereto.

Objections to the Claims

Claims 6 and 8 stand objected to for various informalities. Applicants adopt and implement herein the Examiner's suggestions for clarification. Accordingly, Applicants amend Claims 6 and 8 obviating the objections, whereby withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, 2nd Paragraph

Claims 17, 30, and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, 2nd Paragraph as being indefinite. Applicants respectfully disagree, yet in the interest of moving this case to allowance, herein cancel Claims 17, 30, and 37. Accordingly, the rejection is obviated.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b) as anticipated by Shaputis (US 4,068,106).

Claims 1-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b) as anticipated by Seufer (US 5,816,466).

Claims 1-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b) as anticipated by Plow (US 6,536,644).

Claims 1-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 (e) as anticipated by Enyedy (US 2005/0006425).

The discussions of the above rejections, under the separate references, are analogous. Namely, the arguments applicable to one reference are equally applicable to all references cited in the Office Action dated 05/23/2006. Accordingly, in the interest of brevity, all of the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejections are addressed below in a single discussion.

Applicants do not agree with the rejections or admit that the rejections were proper, in that none of the references disclosed the exact invention as originally claimed (or obvious variants thereof). Nevertheless, in a good faith effort to move this case to allowance, Applicants herein amend independent Claims 1, 18, and 31, to clarify the scope of the invention.

The amendments, to independent Claims 1, 18, and 31 obviate all the above listed rejections.

Amended independent Claim 1 now recites (in part):

--an elevated wire interface, for conveying a weld wire, said elevated wire interface displaced radially outwardly from the outer circumferential body surface.--

Applicants respectfully point out that none of the references of record teach or suggest such. Actually, all references of record teach away from such a device. Namely, all references of record teach *recessed* wire interfaces, in the form of circumferential grooves which extend radially into the outer surface of the drive roll(s).

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection to and allowance of amended independent Claim 1.

Claims 2-16 are allowable as depending from allowable Claim 1 and on their own merits. Claims 2, 5, 6, 8, 11 are further amended to, for example, provide consistency and antecedent basis in light of the amendments to Claim 1. Accordingly Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections to, and allowance of, Claims 2-16.

Amended independent Claim 18 now recites (in part):

--at least one rim extending radially outwardly from, and along at least a major circumferential portion of, the outer circumferential body surface, said at least one rim defining a diameter which is greater than the remaining diameters measured along the width of said drive roll.--

Similar to amended Claim 1, Applicants respectfully point out that none of the references of record teach or suggest the above recitations of Claim 18. To the contrary, the references of record teach drive rolls of uniform diameter across their entire widths, the exceptions being the recessed wire grooves which define relatively *lesser* diameter portions thereof. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection to, and allowance of, amended independent Claim 18.

Claims 19-29 are allowable as depending from allowable Claim 18, as well as on their own merits. Claims 19, 20, and 24 are further amended to, for example, provide consistency and antecedent basis in light of the amendments to Claim 18. Accordingly Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections to and allowance of Claims 19-29.

Amended independent Claim 31 now recites (in part):

--a groove for conveying such weld wire having a predetermined diameter, said groove extending circumferentially about said drive roll and defining a first cross-sectional configuration;

a recess extending circumferentially about said drive roll, adjacent and generally parallel to said groove, said recess defining a second cross-sectional configuration which differs from said first cross-sectional configuration;

said groove and recess defining a distance therebetween, the magnitude of said distance being less than the magnitude of the weld wire diameter--

Applicants respectfully point out that none of the references of record teach or suggest the above recitations of amended, independent, Claim 31.

Again, the references of record merely teach cylindrical drive rolls with recessed wire grooves. Those that teach multiple wire grooves expressly teach that the grooves have cross-sectional configurations which are analogous to each other, whereby they fail to teach or suggest differing cross-sectional configurations. The references of record particularly fail to teach or suggest grooves and recesses, of differing cross-sectional configurations, which are spaced from each other by a distance which is less than the diameter of the weld wire.

Claims 32-36 are allowable as depending from allowable amended Claim 31 and on their own merits. Claims 32-36 are further amended to, for example, provide consistency and antecedent basis in light of the amendments to Claim 31. Accordingly Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections to, and allowance of, Claims 32-36.

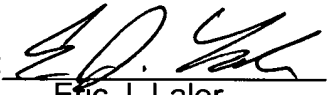
Applicants submit that new Claims 38, 39, and 40 are in proper, allowable, form. At the very least, Claims 38-40 are allowable as depending from allowable, amended Claim 31. Applicants thus respectfully request allowance of new Claims 38, 39, and 40.

Applicants further submit that all claims as presented herein are allowable over all references of record. Early allowance is respectfully solicited. A fee in the amount of \$450 is believed due for an extension for response within one month. A check in the amount of \$450 is enclosed herewith to cover the one month extension fee. Should any other fee be properly due, if the enclosed fee is insufficient, or if any refund is due, kindly charge same, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account 23-2130.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions, comments or concerns, at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
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